

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
En 8307
E-39

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY 10.

April 11, 1916.

Brief Information on
INSECT DAMAGE TO ROUGH AND FINISHED SEASONED FOREST PRODUCTS
IN YARDS, STOREHOUSES AND USE
and ITS CONTROL.

Damage.

The sapwood of seasoned hardwood material of all kinds, both finished and unfinished and especially of hickory, ash and oak is often found up to 90% ruined by what is popularly called "powder post". This is a pulverization of the wood fiber by the grubs or larvae of several species of beetles.

Material seasoned a year or more is especially subject to attack by these beetles.

Evidence of Infestation.

Fine, flour-like powder on or beneath piled or stored seasoned hardwood products. Upon closer examination small holes will usually be found in the surface of the wood from which the powder will fall when moved or jarred. By cutting into the wood, the interior is often found converted into a mass of closely packed material which readily crumbles into powder. This is held together by an outer thin shell and intervening fibers of sound wood. It will also be found that the injury is confined to the white or sapwood, and that the darker-colored heartwood is seldom, if ever, thus affected.

Remedy.

Material of this kind, once attacked is usually damaged beyond repair. If not too far advanced and the piece is still worth saving, further damage can be stopped by saturating it with kerosene. But freedom from powder post damage can be attained only by observing the following rules of

Prevention.

- (1) Inspect material in yards and storehouses annually, preferably in November and February and
 - (a) sort out and burn material showing evidence of powder post attack;
 - (b) burn all refuse and useless sapwood material.
- (2) Classify, as far as practicable, all dry or seasoned hardwood stock into
 - (a) heartwood; (b) pure and part sapwood; (c) hickory, ash, oak, etc.
 - and (d) according to number of years seasoned.
- (3) Utilize or sell the oldest stock first.
- (4) Prevent accumulation of refuse material in which the insects could breed.
- (5) Prevent introduction into lumber yards and storehouses of material infested with powder post.
- (6) If the above precautions are not taken, treat more valuable material with linseed oil or kerosene (by immersion or application with a brush) to prevent attack.

A. D. HOPKINS,

Forest Entomologist.

